

## Margot Wallström - biography

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**Margot Wallström** was born on 28 September 1954 in Sweden.

She entered politics shortly after graduating from high school in 1973. She worked as an Ombudsman for the Swedish Social Democratic Youth League. Then, in 1979, she was elected as a Member of the Swedish Parliament where she served for six years.

Her ministerial career began in 1988 when she was appointed as Minister of Civil Affairs – Consumer Affairs, Women and Youth (1988-1991). She later served as Minister of Culture (1994-1996) and Social Affairs (1996-1998).

In 1998, she retired from Swedish politics to become Executive Vice-President of Worldview Global Media – an NGO based in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The following year she was appointed as Member of the European Commission, under President Romano Prodi, and given responsibility for EU environmental policy.

In 2004, when the Barroso Commission took office, she became Commission Vice-President with responsibility for Inter-institutional Relations and Communication.

Margot Wallström has received honorary doctorates from Chalmers University, Sweden (2001), Mälardalen University, Sweden (2004) and the University of Massachusetts, Lowell (2005).

Other distinctions include being voted "Commissioner of the Year" by the European Voice newspaper in 2002.

In 2004, together with Göran Färm, Member of the European Parliament, she published the book *“The People’s Europe or Why is it so hard to love the EU?”* (“Folkens Europa eller Varför är det så svårt att älska EU?”).

She was the first Commissioner to publish a web-log in which she comments on recent political developments.

Margot Wallström is married, with two children.